

[APPENDIX.]

Notes on a new species of Arses or Flycatcher.

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It is with pleasure I have to record an addition (a new species) to the list of Australian avi-fauna. During a successful collecting trip to Northern Queensland, Mr. Dudley Le Souëf, Assistant-Director Zoological Gardens, Melbourne, returned with many specimens of Natural history, new to science, amongst which there appeared a Flycatcher, evidently of the genus *Arses*, founded by Lesson. This genus of exceedingly elegant birds, mostly in simple black and white garb, embraces five hitherto known species—four confined to the New Guinea region, and one to Northern Queensland. The sixth species, or last discovered one, differs from the other Queensland bird in possessing a frill or colour upon the back of the neck, and again differs from the other Frilled-necked Flycatchers of the New Guinea region, by having a broad band of black across the breast, but resembles most of all the Little Frilled-neck Flycatcher (*A. aurensis*, Sharpe).

The new species was discovered by Mr. Le Souëf last November (1893), on the Bloomfield River about fifty miles south of Cooktown, Northern Queensland. Mr. Le Souëf informs me that the bird is peculiarly a denison of the thick palm scrubs. Its movements are graceful, and the white frill, which appeared to be erect, imparts a singular appearance to the bird, and serves to at once arrest the eye of the observer. Mr. Le Souëf thought its actions somewhat resembled those of the Tree-creeper (*Climacteris*), especially in its mode of ascending the under side of holes of trees and of scrub in search of insect prey—its chief food. Mr. Le Souëf only saw one pair in addition to a few single birds, which were observed either in the morning or towards evening.

I have proposed the name *Arses terræ-reginæ* for this new species, which may be known on the vernacular list as Le Souëf's

Frisled-necked Flycatcher. In connecting the discoverer's name with this interesting bird, I deem it an honour due to him for his indomitable perseverance and diligence as a field naturalist. Moreover, the name of Le Souëf (in part connection with his father, Mr. A. C. Le Souëf) is a household word amongst field workers and zoological institutions in Australia.

I exhibit here to-night, for comparison, the two Australian *Arses*, namely, *kaupi* and *terræ-reginæ*. During my own excursion to Northern Queensland, 1885, I secured a pair of Kaup's Flycatchers in the Cardwell Scrub. The one exhibited is the female, now in possession of our local taxidermist, Mr. A. Coles; the other was taken over by the the National Museum.

Arses terræ-reginæ, Campbell.

Male.—Head, including ear coverts and side of face, velvety black. Upper part of back, shoulders, broad band across the breast, glossy or bluish-black. Wings, except where blending into a brownish shade at the primaries, and tail, black. Tibial plumes, dusky. Surrounding the back of the neck is a pure white frill or collar joining a white throat and chin. Abdomen, part of under wing coverts, and lower portion of the back also white. In the specimen under consideration there appears some patches of parti-colour on the back, indicating possibly that the bird has not reached mature plumage. In life a narrow disc of beautiful bluish wattle surrounds the eyes, which are dark brown. Bill (narrow) steel-blue; feet black. Total length, 6·3 inches; bill (from gape), ·75; culmen, ·4; wing, 3·25; tail, 3·; tarsus, ·73.

Female.—Judging by analogy, probably resembles those of the other frilled-necked species, in being generally dusky brown or rufous in colour.
